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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **EL DORADO HILLS BUSINESS OWNERS INDICTED IN CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OF DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS**

SACRAMENTO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned an eight count indictment today, charging MARY MARGARET DONNELLY, aka Mary Margaret Wittekind, 54, and MICHAEL GALEN DONNELLY, aka Michael Hubbs, 48, both of Cameron Park, California, with conspiracy to defraud the Social Security Administration of disability insurance benefits.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Social Security Administration-Office of Inspector General.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Russell L. Carlberg, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that MARY MARGARET DONNELLY and MICHAEL GALEN DONNELLY falsely claimed to be disabled and not working when, in fact, both defendants were working 35-40 hours per week at their business, "Our House Defines Art," in El Dorado Hills, California, from 2002 through 2007. The indictment further alleges that in furtherance of the scheme, the defendants made numerous false statements of material fact to a government agency. The indictment concludes that the defendants converted to their own use over \$70,000 of disability benefits to which they were not entitled.

The maximum statutory penalty for a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, is five years in prison. However, the actual sentence will be influenced by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines,

which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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